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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: October 1, 2007

Signature: 

(Dennis M. Smid, Esq.)

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-453  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Ishimoto et al.

Application No.: 10/572,604

Group Art Unit: 2622

Filed: November 20, 2006

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, AND PROGRAM

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMUNICATION**

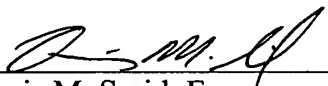
Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the International Preliminary Report on Patentability.

In the event there are any fees due and owing in connection with this matter, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 1, 2007

By   
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY  
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 288-S05P0935	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2005/012827	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 12 July 2005 (12.07.2005)	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 20 July 2004 (20.07.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant SONY CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application   |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Date of issuance of this report 23 January 2007 (23.01.2007)
Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer  Yoshiko Kuwahara
Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)	e-mail: pt07@wipo.int

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

<p>To:</p>		<p>Date of mailing (day/month/year)</p>
<p>Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>288-S05P0935</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below</p>
<p>International application No. <b>PCT/JP2005/012827</b></p>	<p>International filing date (day/month/year) <b>12.07.2005</b></p>	<p>Priority date (day/month/year) <b>20.07.2004</b></p>
<p>International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC</p>		
<p>Applicant <b>SONY CORPORATION</b></p>		

<p>1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:</p>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. II Priority</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
<p>2. <b>FURTHER ACTION</b></p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.</p> <p>If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.</p> <p>For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>	
<p>3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>	

<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP</p>	<p>Authorized officer</p>
<p>Facsimile No.</p>	<p>Telephone No.</p>

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/012827

Box No. 1

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
☐ a sequence listing  
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
☐ in written format  
☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
☐ contained in the international application as filed.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/012827

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
<b>1. Statement</b>			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
<b>2. Citations and explanations:</b>			
<p>Document 1: JP 62-200889 A (Sony Corp.), 04 September 1987, Full text; all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2003-92690 A (Canon Inc.), 28 March 2003, paragraphs 0087-0095; Figs. 5 and 8 &amp; US 2003/52895 A1</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2003-87587 A (Canon Inc.), 20 March 2003, Full text; all drawings &amp; US 2003/52894 A1 &amp; EP 1294179 A</p> <p>Document 4: JP 2002-314831 A (Seiko Epson Corp.), 25 October 2002, Full text; all drawings &amp; US 2002/122194 A1 &amp; EP 1231775 A</p> <p>The inventions of claims 1-10 are neither described in any of the documents cited in the ISR, nor are they obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p>			